

## THE PLAYBILLS FOR THIS WEEK.

Sardou's Play, "Spiritisme," to Have Its American Test.

"PINEY RIDGE" ON VIEW.

"In Old Kentucky" to Be Revived on an Elaborate Scale at the Academy.

HOPPER AT THE BROADWAY.

"My Friend from India" Comes to Hoyt's—"Too Much Johnson" Will Be at the Columbia—in the Realm of Vaudeville.

At the Knickerbocker Theatre to-morrow night "Spiritisme," Sardou's latest play, will have its first American production. Simone, a beautiful young woman, who loves her husband dearly and wants to be as warmly loved in return, is the chief character. She is the possessor of 6,000,000 francs in her own right. Her husband is a scientist and an earnest devotee of spiritualism. He becomes so interested in calling the dead back to life and in slate-writing and table-tipping that he finally neglects his wife and she seeks elsewhere for the affection and attention that are lacking in her husband. She listens to the protestations of love of one Mannel, a Spaniard, who proposes that they flee to Cuba, where they can spend their lives in the sunshine of each other's smiles. Mannel is, of course, after the young wife's fortune, but Simone doesn't see through his scheme, and, yearning for love, she consents to his proposition. After telling her husband that she is going to visit a friend, she elopes with the Spaniard and takes her maid with her.

While waiting for their train the railway station takes fire and the maid's body is almost burned to a crisp. The Spaniard and Simone, however, fly to the former's home. The finding of the maid's charred body with a satchel of jewels belonging to her mistress arouses the suspicion that the body is that of the wife. The spiritualistic husband, however, refuses to believe that the corpse is that of his wife and he straightway institutes a search for her, and after many hardships he eventually finds her in Mannel's house. The villain is unmasked, a reconciliation of husband and wife follows and happiness and affection are restored to the hearts from which they seemed to have fled forever.

Of course the restoration of Simone to her husband is effected with spiritualistic accompaniments of the wildest and most thrilling kind. To Virginia Haynes is entrusted the role of Simone, which is being played in Paris by Bernhardt, and Maurice Barrymore will be the Mannel. J. H. Gilmore will assume the character of Simone's husband, and others in the cast are Nelson Wheatcroft, Charles Harbury, Charles Clarke, Henry Gibbs, Fritz Williams, Milton Lipman, Olive Oliver and Blanche Barton.

"At Piney Ridge," an American melodrama, from the pen of David K. Higgins, will have its initiation at the American Theatre to-morrow night. The scenes of the piece are laid in the Tennessee mountains, and the rugged mountaineers, the aristocratic Southern gentleman, the mountain maid, the dainty, cultured daughter of the valley, the octoroon and the negro are, of course, the principal characters. The story of the play deals with the trials and triumphs of a young white man, who, when a baby, had been stolen and hidden away in the mountains by a revengeful octoroon, who then advanced another to the rank and wealth which rightfully belonged to the abandoned child. The race question is dealt with in the usual way, and a vein of comedy runs through the piece. In the company are Mabel Amber, Mrs. McKee Hankin, George Waldron, Camille Cleveland, Gabriella McKean, Charles Canfield, Thomas Oberie, F. G. Campbell and B. T. Murphy.

The De Wolf Hopper Opera Company begins an engagement at the Broadway Theatre to-morrow afternoon in Sousa and Kleins' successful comic opera, "The Captain." The opera had a run of thirteen weeks at this house last Spring, and since then it has been presented in all the large cities of the country with extraordinary

success. It affords Hopper an excellent opportunity to display his fine making qualities. His portrayal of the comically swash-buckler, El Captain, is perhaps the most amusing piece of work he has ever done. In Mr. Hopper's support are Nella Berger, Edmund Slaye, Edna Wallace Hopper, Alfred Klein, Alice Hosmer, Tom Gulse and John Parr. A large and well-trained chorus will, it is promised, effectively present the many stirring marches and concerted numbers of "El Captain."

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That merry, bright and successful Hoyt comedy, "A Trip to Chinatown," comes to the Murray Hill for a week's stay. This farce, which the author modestly calls a musical trifle, would not seem like the same old piece without "The Bowers," but many new ancient numbers have been introduced, among them being "She Always Dressed in Black," "Put Me Off at Buffalo," "Lucky Jim," "Her First Waltz," "The Bells," "The Swell of the Day," and "Move Up, Johnson." Light Bigger and Burt Haverly will play the leading roles, and they will be surrounded by Ernest Elton, Richard Carl, Gus Thomas, John P. Brown, Benjamin Lettler, Jeannette Lifford, Maud Bagley, Isabelle Chamberlain and Rose Sutherland.

Kate Claxton and Charles A. Stevenson revive D'Ennery's romantic drama, "The Two Orphans," at the Star Theatre with an exceptionally strong cast. Fanny Gillette, who starred in "A Fair Rebel" last season, will appear as the other orphan, John W. Isham's "Octoroons," an organization which has in its ranks singers of rare ability, will give a special concert at this house to-night.

A number of the most prominent and highest salaried performers on the vaudeville stage are on the programme at Hammerstein's Olympia Music Hall. Auguste Van Blene, the famous cellist, remains the bright particular star. Van Blene's playing is a peculiar blending of sympathetic expression in its artistic aspects and of the athletic trickery in its external. Herr Grais, with his funny baboons and donkeys, will add a picturesque and humorous detail to the entertainment, and De Bessel, modeller in clay, will display his skill in rapid and rough sculpture. The Panzer brothers, head balancers, enter upon their final week. Kitty Mitchell, the fascinating dainty and pretty comedienne, returns to the Olympia after an absence of several months, with a budget of new and catchy songs. Others on the capital bill are Fair Rebel Lewis, German dialect comedians; Ed Latell, banjoist; Felix and Cain ("watch the board"); O'Brien and Hayel, and Haines and Pettinelli. "Silly's Dinner" is as popular as ever.

The old-fashioned cake walk has scored a distinct hit at Koster & Bial's. All the participants apparently enter into the spirit of the contest with the keenest relish and a firm determination to win fame and perhaps a few dollars. The comedy element demanded in such an affair is furnished in ample quantity and of high quality by those clever colored comedians, Williams and Walker. This week they will introduce new business, and several aspirants who were unable to appear last week will be given an opportunity to exhibit their pedestrian propensities. A new march, replete with quaint negro melody is also promised. George Howard will give imitations of



KITTY MITCHELL AT THE OLYMPIA

PHOTO BY NOTMAN & SON

sketch, and La Roche will roll up and down the spiral column in his extraordinary globe. Others on the long programme are Phyllis Allen, the contralto; Edith Kinsley, serious; Lee Block, and Jane Cooper, in a new farcical sketch; C. W. Littlefield, mimic; J. Stuart Blackton, caricaturist; Silver & Sparks, Helena Farblum, and Kurtz, the juggler. The wonderful American biograph continues on its phenomenally successful career, and again this week there will be a change of views.

Marie Dressler has made a big hit at the Pleasure Palace. Her methods are genuinely comic, and she is a breezy, buoyant and unique entertainer. The Lumiere cinematograph is still a potent feature at this house. Its pictures are large, clear and thoroughly interesting. Sam Devere, the banjoist, who, by the way, was General Grant's orderly during the Civil War, will appear with his entire company, which includes Florence Miller, Firms and Carfield, and Carleton. The Brothers Rossi, Smith and Champion, Bernard Dwyer and Catherine R. Palmer. "The Silly Dinner," which satirizes a recent so-



DeWolf Hopper AT THE BROADWAY THEATRE

PHOTO BY FAIR

a vivid realism. The company is a competent one.

"A Contented Woman." Hoyt's clever comedy, moves up to the Harlem Opera House. This piece has had a most successful career at Hoyt's Theatre and there is no reason why it should not be equally successful in Harlem. Caroline Miskel Hoyt will continue to play the leading role.

"My Friend from India." Du Bouchet's amusing farce, will occupy the stage of Hoyt's Theatre. The piece will be interpreted by an entirely new company, including Willie Collier, W. A. Kennedy, Cyril Scott, John B. Mahoney, Henry Heron, W. H. Porter, Charles Mitchell, Lilla Vane, Marion Abbott, Louisa Allen, Nina Allen and Lulu Talbot.

Tony Pastor presents an exceptionally strong cast at his cozy fourteenth street Theatre. Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Ellis, who have been prominent figures on the legitimate stage for many years, will be seen in a new sketch called "Mrs. Hogan's

Music Teacher." Other entertainers are Bert Shepard, the Donorans, Jerome and Bell, Little Western, Billy Carter, J. W. Myers, Charles G. Seymour, May Wentworth, Belle Hawthorn, W. E. Whitely, Dick Sands, Harry Kramer and the Patonville Trio.

John W. Isham's Octoroons proved such a big drawing card at Carr's Third Avenue last week that they are retained.

A new and improved cinematograph, the invention of Joly, of Paris, has just been placed in the Eden Musee. This machine exhibits views without the flickering of the light upon the screen, and many of the pictures take from four to five minutes to reproduce.

Imagine a person with two heads, four arms, the same number of legs, a single heart and two distinct minds and you have a counterpart of Mlle. Christine, one of the most curious of human freaks, and the main feature in the curio hall at Huber's Museum.

With the exception of the Knickerbocker, American and Daly's Theatre, special holiday matinee will be given at all the local theatres and music halls to-morrow.

**ROBT. J. WRIGHT'S CAREER**  
He Comes of Anti-Revolutionary Stock and is a Successful Business Man.

Robert J. Wright is recognized in the business community as one of the most prosperous and enterprising merchants of New York City, who, during his long and successful career, has maintained a reputation for probity and honor. His American ancestor was Richard Wright, of Lynn, Mass., who came over in 1632 and was one of the committee of that town to confer with two others in each town in advising the Governor and assistant about raising a public stock.

He was in Boston in 1636, and was known as "Captain." The lineage of the family is traced back to 1590 to Wright, of Wrightsbridge, Herts, England, Dagham, County Essex. Robert J. Wright received a good education and early in life entered a fondness for commercial pursuits and filled various positions as clerk until 1866, when he started in the flour and feed business, achieving success from the start, which continued for a period of twenty years.

In 1886 he formed a partnership under the firm name of Kane & Wright, for carrying on the feed business, holding one of the largest houses of the kind in the country. He is a Republican, although an anti-Platt man. He is now the Commissioner of Correction.

**FAMOUS ITALIAN.**

Giosue Carducci, the "Uncrowned Laureate," hobnobs with Royalty but is Sometimes Impolite.

Giosue Carducci is one of the most famous of living Italians and is called in his native country "the uncrowned laureate." He has been professor of literature in the University of Bologna since he was twenty-one, and he is said to have learned Latin and patriotism from his father, one of the celebrated Carluccis.

Carducci is described by a recent writer as having been at times the idol of the republican party, owing to the views he has expressed on national questions, but he is also admired by the monarchists, and he is on friendly terms with the royal family and visits them at their country home. He has written, however, to Queen Margherita and sometimes lectures before her and her ladies in waiting at Rome. The saying about prophets at home is fulfilled in Carducci's case, as very great respect for him is felt throughout all Italy, and it is stated that he is generally hailed at the mention of his name.

Like most men of genius, Carducci is more or less eccentric and not always very courteous to his friends. The result of his reception of a young student from Paris, who made the journey to Bologna on foot, wearing a sack and carrying a bundle of sticks, is a story which will be found in his own diary.

"What do you want?" asked the poet, "I came to see you, to see the great poet."

"Well, now you have seen him, you may go!"

And the student went.—Chicago Daily News.

**ONE HONEST MAN**  
Dear Editor: Please inform your readers that if written to confidentially I will mail in a sealed letter the plan pursued by which I was permanently restored to health and many vigor after years of suffering from Nervous Weakness, night losses, and weak, shrunken parts.

I have no scheme to extort money from any one. I was robbed and swindled by quacks until I nearly lost faith in mankind, but, thank heaven, I am now well, vigorous and strong, and anxious to make this certain means of cure known to all.

Having nothing to sell or send C. O. D., I want no money. Address JAMES A. HARRIS, Box 234, Delray, Mich.

## BLACK GERRYMAN

Plan to Make the Greater City Republican and Keep It So.

DEMOCRATS WILL PROTEST.

Governor's Partisanship Shown in His Advocacy of a Proposed Measure.

MAYOR MOLLOY UP IN ARMS.

Greater Troy Charter Takes Powers from the Executive Which Are Enjoyed by New York's Chief Official.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 20.—Governor Black will soon be in a most tangled situation owing to the remarkable legislation which his Republican friends are framing to meet the political situations in their respective localities. This legislation is designed to give the Republican party a strong partisan advantage.

One of the most glaring instances of the

hot both castrats of the gov-

A Par. The Greater Troy present city of Troy the burg and other outlying laia proposed new city new govern.

Mayor Molloy to-day came to Albany, the attention of some of the legisla-

other features of the measure, notably the provisions relating to the appointment of city officers and municipal department heads. The charter, Mayor Molloy says, is one of the most pernicious pieces of legislation ever devised for partisan gain.

The charter for Greater New York gives the Mayor of the big city extensive powers of appointment of city officers. That charter the Governor will have to approve. The charter for the Greater Troy shares from the Mayor all the powers of appointment of city officers with patronage at their disposal and turns over the power to the Common Council. Besides this the city is so cut up into Aldermanic districts that by a large majority and elect the Mayor, there will always be two-thirds of the Common Council Republican. An odd sight is a map showing the proposed districts of the city under the charter. All kinds of schemes have been practiced to cluster the Democratic voters into a few wards and to split their strength in the Republican wards.

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## Major McKinley

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*Wm McKinley*

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IN OLD KENTUCKY ACADEMY OF MUSIC

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